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In particular, if one were to consider the Bowman et al. topmost box (referred to as “device 17”; see Figure 8) as the “housing” of Applicants’ claim 1, then such housing of Bowman et al. fails to satisfy claim 1 for one very key reason. Such purported “housing” does not have a “socket [that is] ... positioned substantially within the enclosed space,” as required by Applicants’ claim 1. More significantly, such housing in the Bowman et al. device secures wiring and connectors for such wiring, but does not enclose the power-related components for the luminaire.

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If, on the other hand, one were to consider the Bowman et al. “ballast housing 12” (see Figure 8) as the “housing” of Applicants’ claim 1, once again the Bowman et al. device fails to satisfy the claim 1 requirement of the socket being “positioned substantially within the enclosed space.” The description of ballast housing 12 (at column 3, line 9) states merely as follows: “The ballast housing 12 encloses a ballast circuit ... .” There is no suggestion that it also encloses the socket; to say that a socket is enclosed would be pure speculation, contrary to the what is seen and described.

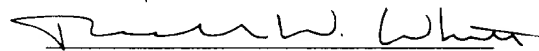
Applicants’ claim 2 refers to the “socket window” in the housing. The Examiner asserted that Figure 8 of the Bowman et al. patent shows a socket window. However, Figure 8 itself shows that such assertion is inaccurate. Indeed, the opening that is shown is a wire pass-through and has nothing whatsoever to do with the socket. The socket is located elsewhere, and not positioned in any way with respect to such opening.

The differences between claim 1 and the disclosure of the Bowman et al. patent are significant. The instant invention provides a number of advantages, laid out in Applicants’ specification. Applicants’ invention provides a unique low-profile overhead industrial light fixture of significant value in the lighting industry. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the initial rejection of claims 1-13, and allow such claims as originally filed.

Once again, Applicants’ express appreciation for the Examiner’s indication of the allowability of claims 14-27 if rewritten in independent claim form. In view of the above points and arguments, applicants believe claims 14-27 will be dependent on allowed claims; therefore, such claims will not be rewritten at this time.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and early favorable action is requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if that would be helpful to resolve any issues that remain.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard W. White  
Registration No. 50,601

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Jansson, Shupe & Munger, Ltd.  
245 Main Street  
Racine, WI 53403-1034  
Attorney Docket No. OB-102US

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